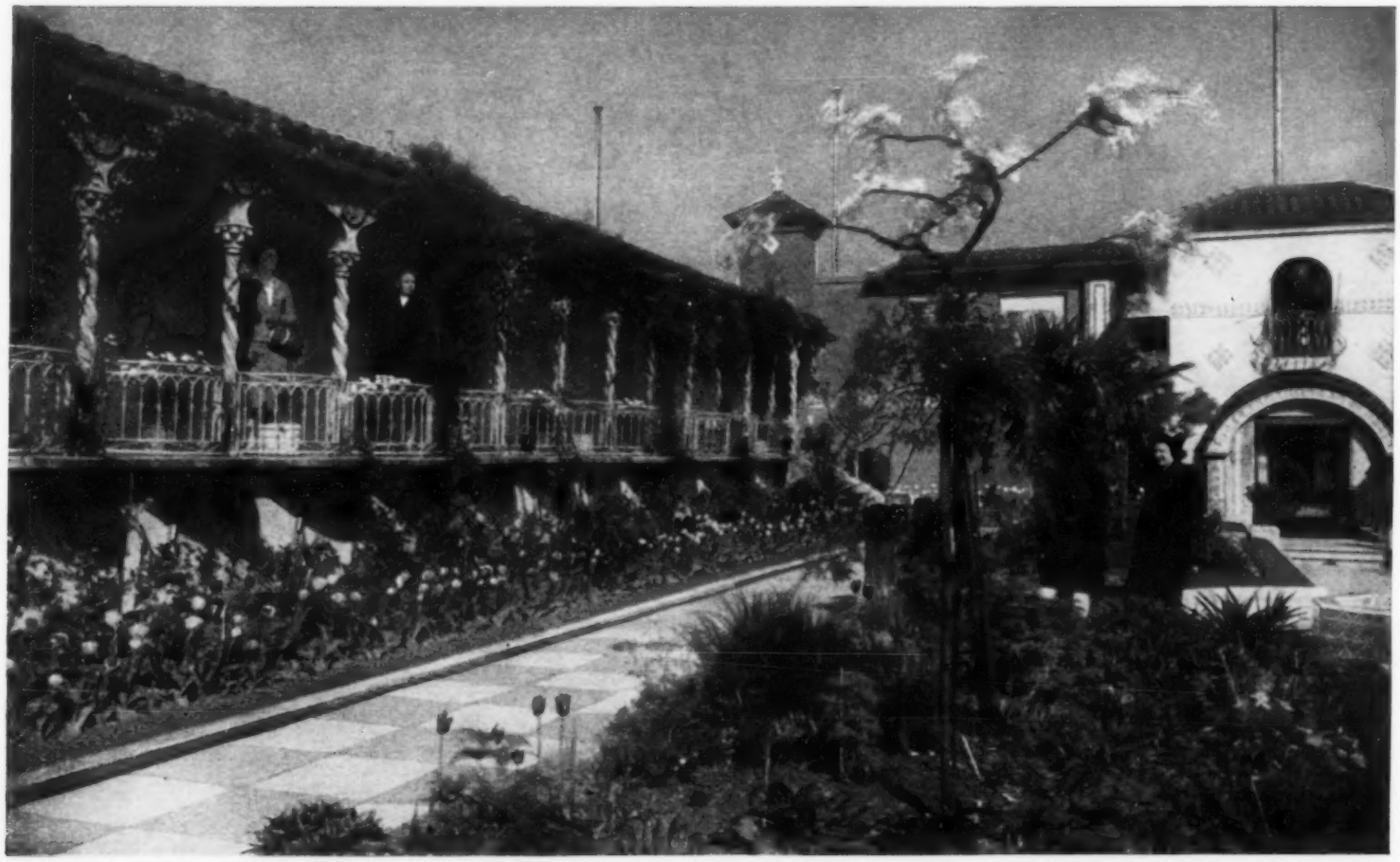

OVER 100 FT. ABOVE A BUSY LONDON THOROUGHFARE: A CORNER OF THE SPANISH GARDEN ON THE TOP OF THE DERRY BUILDING IN KENSINGTON. THE ARCADE (LEFT), WITH ITS TWISTED MOORISH PILLARS AND CLIMBING ROSES, OVERLOOKS A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN WHICH HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO RECAPTURE THE WARMTH AND COLOUR OF SUNNY SPAIN.

A COUNTRY RETREAT BENEATH WHOSE LAWNS A MYRIAD SHOPPERS DAILY THRONG: THE OLD ENGLISH WATER GARDEN ABOVE KENSINGTON HIGH STREET.

# UNSUSPECTED BEAUTY ON THE ROOF OF A LONDON STORE: WILD AND FORMAL GARDENS.

London is rich in beautiful gardens and parks, and one of the amazing "sights" of this large city, where a man may walk from Notting Hill to Whitehall through four contiguous parks, is an unique roof-garden. Over 100 ft. above ground-level, on the roof of Derry and Toms' great store in Kensington High Street, are gardens covering some 1¼ acres, where there is a waterfall and a flowing stream, shady trees and green lawns. They are the only roof-gardens in the world of such large dimensions at so great a height. On this page and page IV we reproduce some natural-colour photographs of these gardens, which give an impression of the contrasting types. The depth of the soil averages 2 ft. 6 ins., and yet there are some large and fully-grown trees, a wealth of shrubs, and flowers of all kinds.

"ROSA BIFERA VARIEGATA"—A FLOWER PORTRAIT BY P.-J. REDOUTÉ, "LE RAPHAËL DES FLEURS."

Although the ancient Egyptians knew not the rose and the Bible's Rose of Sharon was probably a narcissus, the Cretans of the Second Millennium B.C. painted the rose in their wall-frescoes, Aristotle's pupil Theophrastus wrote of it like a modern botanist and Nero spent four million sesterces on roses for a single feast. From then on to the present day the rose has been the favourite and the type of flowers—"*Phlos phlorum*," the inscription in York's Chapter House calls it; and yet, from a variety of causes its classic period and age of perfect development in man's hands was delayed until the end of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth centuries. Since then the possibilities have been so widely exploited by the breeders that the rose, like romantic music, has almost forgotten its classic qualities, and the roses of only 150 years ago are "old-fashioned roses" and would be the curiosities of a few gardens, were it not for the great flower painters and, in particular, the greatest of them all (all things considered), "le Raphaël des fleurs," Pierre-Joseph Redouté. Redouté (1759-1840), who was born near Liége, the son, grandson and brother of

*Continued opposite.*

## PIERRE-JOSEPH REDOUTÉ'S "ROSA INDICA," A RICH FORM OF THE CHINESE MONTHLY ROSE.

*Continued.*

painters, after an apprenticeship in religious painting, devoted himself to the portrayal of flowers and, occasionally, animals. His masterpieces are "Les Liliacées," with 486 plates, and "Les Roses," for which he is said to have painted over 1000 roses. Our two plates are from two original water-colours done for this collection and reproduced by courtesy of the owners, William H. Robinson, Ltd. He was closely associated as a flower-painter with Marie-Antoinette, Marie-Amélie, the Empress Josephine and the family of Louis-Philippe; despite which and despite the refinement and precision of his art, he is said to have looked like a working gardener, with the heavy and knotted hands of a labourer. In our two reproductions—in which the subjects are approximately the same size as in the original drawings—the titles given are those used by Redouté. "Rosa bifera variegata," which is almost certainly no longer in cultivation, is an autumn-flowering damask hybrid, probably a cross of *R. gallica* and *R. moschata*. "Rosa indica" is a form of *R. chinensis*, the Chinese Monthly Rose, also called the Bengal Rose and the Blush Monthly.

TULIP TIME IN THE TUDOR GARDEN, WHERE VINES AND CLIMBING SHRUBS CLAMBER OVER THE ARCHES AND OLD RED-BRICK WALLS.

RESEMBLING A GARDEN IN OLD SEVILLE: THE COURT OF FOUNTAINS IN THE SPANISH GARDEN, WHICH LOOKS ON TO A TWISTED STONE PERGOLA, A MADONNA AND A WELL OF ST. THERESA. THE WATER FOR THE FOUNTAINS IS DRAWN FROM ARTESIAN WELLS 400 FT. DEEP.

# HIGH ABOVE A CROWDED LONDON STORE: ROOF-TOP GARDENS OF THE DERRY BUILDING.

The roof-garden on the top of the Derry building in Kensington took three years to build and was opened in May, 1938, by the Earl of Athlone, K.G. In the past the gardens have been open from May to September in aid of the London hospitals, but this year, since the hospitals have been nationalised, the voluntary donation of 1s. paid for admission is going to the Hospital Amenities and Benevolent Fund. Since 1938 over 750,000 people have visited the gardens and some £40,000 has been raised. The gardens, of which we reproduce natural-colour photographs on this page and page I, comprise an Old English water garden, with lawns, a running stream, a waterfall and bridges; a Tudor Garden, with lovely old red-brick arches; a Spanish garden, with Moorish pergolas and a Court of Fountains.